



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION EXAMINING OPERATIONS

Applicant: Ferman, et al. Group Art Unit:
Serial No.: 09/823,377 Examiner:
Filed: March 30, 2001
Title: AUDIOVISUAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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May 30, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to Examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1, without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

2. A usage history description scheme for at least one of an audio, an image, and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

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02 FC:102 200.00 CH 200.00 OP

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- (a) said usage history description scheme describing preferences of a user with respect to said at least one of said audio, image, and video based upon previous usage of said at least one of said audio, image, and video; and
 - (b) said usage history description scheme including at least one type defined by, at least in part, a thesaurus.

- 3. The usage history description scheme of claim 2 wherein said usage history description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said audio.
- 4. The usage history description scheme of claim 2 wherein said usage history description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said image.
- 5. The usage history description scheme of claim 2 wherein said usage history description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said video.
- 6. A description scheme for at least one of an audio, an image, and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:
 - (a) said description scheme describing preferences of a user with respect to said at least one of said audio, image, and video based upon previous usage of said at least one of said audio, image, and video; and

(b) said description scheme including at least one type characterized by, at least in part, a time associated with said at least one of said audio, image, and video.

7. The description scheme of claim 6 wherein said time is coordinated universal time.
8. The description scheme of claim 6 wherein said description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said audio.
9. The description scheme of claim 6 wherein said description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said image.
10. The usage history description scheme of claim 6 wherein said description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said video.
11. A system including a usage history description scheme for at least one of an audio, an image, and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:
 - (a) said usage history description scheme including content descriptions describing preferences of a user with respect to said at least one of said audio, image, and video based upon previous usage of said at least one of said audio, image, and video; and

- (b) said system including referencing functionality permitting selected information sources to reference selected portions of selected said content descriptions of said usage history description scheme.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein said selected portion is to a segment of a video that the user reviews in slow motion.
13. The system of claim 11 wherein said selected portion is to a hyperlink.
14. The system of claim 11 wherein said selected portion is to a web site.
15. The system of claim 11 wherein said selected portion is to an electronic program guide.
16. A system including a usage history description scheme for at least one of an audio, an image, and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:
- (a) said usage history description scheme describing preferences of a user with respect to said at least one of said audio, image, and video based upon previous usage of said at least one of said audio, image, and video; and
- (b) said system capturing content for said usage history description scheme at a selectable level of detail.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein said level of detail is based, at least in part, on the capabilities of said system.
18. The system of claim 17 wherein said different said selectable levels of detail are suitable for interchangeability with other such systems.
19. The system of claim 16 wherein one of said selectable levels captures all user actions.
20. The system of claim 16 wherein one of said selectable levels captures statistical information regarding user actions.
21. The usage history description scheme of claim 16 wherein said usage history description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said audio.
22. The usage history description scheme of claim 16 wherein said usage history description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said image.
23. The usage history description scheme of claim 16 wherein said usage history description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said video.

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24. A usage history description scheme for at least one of an audio, an image, and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:
 - (a) said usage history description scheme describing preferences of a user with respect to said at least one of said audio, image, and video based upon previous usage of said at least one of said audio, image, and video; and
 - (b) said usage history description scheme including data indicating whether the user's identity is intended to be revealed to third parties.
25. The usage history description scheme of claim 24 wherein said usage history description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said audio.
26. The usage history description scheme of claim 24 wherein said usage history description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said image.
27. The usage history description scheme of claim 24 wherein said usage history description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said video.
28. A system including a usage history description scheme for at least one of an audio, an image, and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:
 - (a) said usage history description scheme describing preferences of a user with respect to said at least one of said audio, image, and video based

upon previous usage of said at least one of said audio, image, and video;
and

(b) said system selectively defining the content of said usage history
description scheme at multiple levels of granularity.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein said levels of granularity are defined for multiple users.
30. The system of claim 28 wherein said levels of granularity are used to generate personalized programming.
31. The system of claim 28 wherein said usage history description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said audio.
32. The system of claim 28 wherein said usage history description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said image.
33. The system of claim 28 wherein said usage history description scheme describes preferences of said user with respect to said video.
34. A method of using usage history information describing at least one of an audio, an image, and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

- (a) providing said usage history information describing preferences of a user with respect to said at least one of said audio, image, and video based upon previous usage of said at least one of said audio, image, and video; and
- (b) selectively defining the content of said usage history description scheme at multiple levels of granularity.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein said levels of granularity are defined for multiple users.

36. The method of claim 34 wherein said levels of granularity are used to generate personalized programming.

37. The method of claim 34 wherein said content is used by parents to track their children's viewing habits.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein said tracking is used to control the children's access to objectionable content.

39. A method of obtaining usage history information describing at least one of an audio, an image, and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising obtaining said usage history information describing preferences of a user with respect to said at least one of said

audio, image, and video based upon previous usage of said at least one of said audio, image, and video in a manner free from explicit user input.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein said obtaining is free from prompting said user to fill out a questionnaire and respond to questions.

Remarks

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the application and pass claims 2-40 to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

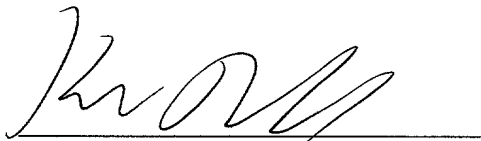


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Dated: May 30, 2001


Kevin L. Russell



Practitioner's Docket No. KLR:7146.105

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1600 ODS Tower
601 SW Second Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
May 17, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification by inserting the following on page 1,
immediately following the title:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application
No. 60/232,377, filed September 14, 2000.

Remarks

The applicant claims the benefit of the provisional application

no. 60/232,377, filed September 14, 2000 and respectfully requests amendment of the application to reflect this priority claim.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin L. Russell

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